

Candidate presentation Børge Falleth Høysæter

The University Board

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Hi, my name is Børge Falleth Høysæter. I'm 26 years old and a 4th year mechanical engineering student. I've been sitting as a board member in 2020, and I'm running for re-election in 2020.

When I got elected in 2019 I wanted to make makerspaces more available at campus. The reason I wanted to do this was my previous experience with "Eik ideverksted", and I wanted all students at NMBU to have this possibility. After I got elected last year EIK has gone from being a student association to becoming a part of REAITEK. I wish to continue working for the expansion of EIK, since I rather see one central makerspace instead of multiple across campus. I want this solution because it's more beneficial with one interdisciplinary makerspace, which in turn will prepare the students for project-based work and the interdisciplinarity of the working life.

This board period has been heavily inflicted by corona, and it has revealed the university's ability to digitize. The digitalization of the university has been working fairly well, but I don't want to see digital lectures and workgroups becoming the norm in the future. I do not see digital lectures as an alternative to lectures on campus. However, I see a possibility to use digitalization as a supplement, rather than an alternative. I also want to work for a good digital pedagogical competence among the lecturers since the digital content created during this period could be used as educational supplement for later years. As long as most activity is digitized, I think that most student will have a harder time to keep up with the curriculum. Therefore, I want to work for a solution where we get as much lectures on campus as possible, and good digital solution where the lectures have good digital pedagogical competence.

AU, Nina and I has been working on maintaining the psychological/ psychosocial health among students during the corona period. During the board period we have kept a focus on the students' conditions. It's not easy being a student locked away in a small room when all the social activities disappear. Nina and I have assessed the situation of the students to be a lot less forgiving than the situation of those with family close and want to continue working for solutions that prevent loneliness and psychosocial decay. When corona first arrived in Norway, I created a Facebook group with the intention to supply the students in the risk group with food and other necessities. I was also in contact with students abroad who was curious about the new situation and conveyed the information to the headmaster the same evening the government closed Norwegian universities. I want to continue working to keep focus on the psychosocial/ psychological health of the students, so our everyday life becomes as simple as possible. I also want to take precautions so that the new students get to be a part of the social life at Ås. For this to happen I want to keep a focus on infection control and other precautions so that the university can keep open as long as the government allows us to.

As a last point of interest I want to get even more focus on sustainability in our education. At a seminar in Trondheim a Dean Øyvind Gregersen presented a plan on how NTNU wants to implement sustainability in their education. The Dean presented themes such as system thinking, critical thinking and the possibility to choose a minor within sustainability. I think that NMBU can do this even better due to our competitive advantages within interdisciplinarity and teacher-student ratio. We as the most interdisciplinary university in Norway, with a history of working across student programs and faculties should keep a strong focus on sustainability. As I see it NMBU will educate candidates with a strong interdisciplinary background with a focus on sustainability. I think this is really beneficial in a labor market that has a growing need for employees with competence within sustainability.

Finally I want to mention a few cases that I think need attention

- Health center. The health center is an important service for the students. The health center supplies services that contribute to both the physical and mental health of the students. This service needs to be sustained given that we get even more students at Ås due to the moving of the VET faculty.

- Hired/elected headmaster. Hired or elected headmaster is a case that's coming up in the university board in January. I want a recruiting model that maintains the student's participation to the best possible degree. Therefore, I think it's important that we all look at the different models and find out which one that strengthens the students' position

- Project campus. The moving of the VET faculty has once again been postponed. I think that it's at the outmost important that the students are kept informed about the moving process

Happy voting!

Børge Falleth Høysæter